

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (SECSTATE TO INFO AND ADDING BONN
AS ACTION ADDRESSEE)
E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR WB GW
SUBJECT: BERLIN CDU PUBLISHES PSITION PAPER ON REVISION OF AIRLINE
TICKET SUBSIDIES IN BERLIN TRAFFIC

SUMMARY: RECENTLY, THE BERLIN CDU PUBLISHED A POSITION PAPER ON THE
QUESTION OF HIGHER FEDERAL SUBSIDIES FOR BERLIN AIR TRAFFIC.
THE POSITION PAPER HAS ALREADY BEEN CRITICIZED BY SENATOR FOR
ECONOMICS WOLFGANG LUDDER (FDP), WHO FEELS IT ENDANGERS THE
COMMON GROUND OF BERLIN PROMOTION POLICIES AGREED ON BY THE
FOUR POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE BUNDESTAG. END SUMMARY
1. CDU BERLIN BUNDESTAG MEMBER JUERGENWOHLRABE AND
BERLIN HOUSE MEMBER RAINE GIESEL RECENTLY PREPARED A PAPER RE-
PRESENTING THE BERLIN CDU POSITION ON
FUTURE PRICING POLICIES OF AIR SERVICES TO AND FROM BERLIN.
IT CALLS FOR A SUBSTANTIAL INCRESSE OF FEDERAL
SUBSIDIES FROM DM 43 MLLION TO DM 130 MILLION ANNUALLY, TO
BE DISTRIBUTED AS FOLLOWS:
-- FUTURE TICKET TRAFFS EQUAL TO 1-1/2 TIMES THE PRICE OF
A SECOND-CLASS TRAIN TICKET. THIS WOULD REDUCE PRESENT PRICES
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BY AN AVERAGE OF 20 PERCENT:
--ONE-WAY FLIGHTS AND FLIGHTS ORIGINATING FROM A
DIFFERENT POINT ON THE RETURN LEG (GOBELFLUEGE) SUBSIDIZED
IN THE FUTURE AS WELL:
-- FAMILY TICKETS WITH ADDITIONAL REDUCTIONS FOR A
FAMILY OF A LEAST 4 MEMBERS:
-- LARGER VOLUME OF CHARTER AND GROUP LIGHTS TO BERLIN

ON REGULAR SCHEDULED FLIGHTS:

-- CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBLE SUBSIDIES FOR NONSTOP
FLIGHTS ORIGINATING IN BERLIN TO FOREIGN DESTINATIONS.

3. IN ADDITION, THE CDU CALLED FOR IMPROVED SERVICE,
NAMELY, REDUCTION OF OVER-BOOKINGS, AN OFFER ADDITIONAL
LATER EVENING FLIGHTS FROM BERLIN TO THE FRG, AND PROVIDING
PASSENGERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO BUY BETTER FOOD AND
BEVERAGE SERVICES. THE CDU SAID IT WOULD LIKE TO SEE
EARLY DISCUSSIONS AMONG THE AIRLINES ON ROUTE DISTRIBUTION
AND FLEET MODERNIZATION.

4. THE BERLIN CDU STRESSED THAT AIR TRAFFIC TO AND FROM
BERLIN WILL HAVE TO BE DEVELOPED CONSIDERABLY IF THE
CITY IS TO DEVELOP ITS REPUTATION AS AN ECONOMIC AND
CULTURAL METROPOLIS, AND EXHIBITION AND CONGRESS
CENTER. TICKET PRICES MUST ALSO BE ECONOMICAL SINCE
THE AIR ROUTES CONSTITUTE THE SOLE UNCONTROLLED MEANS
OF ACCESS TO THE CITY.

5. THE BERLIN CDU ANNOUNCED ITS PAPER WOULD BE DISCUSSED
IN THE FEDERAL CDU/CSU CAUCUS ON SEPTEMBER 15 AND UPON
APPROVAL BY THE CAUCUS - WHICH IS EXPECTED - IN THE
ECONOMIC COMMITTEE OF THE BUNDESTAG WHICH WILL PROBABLY
CONVENE IN BERLIN THE FIRST WEEK IN OCTOBER. BERLIN
CDU CIRCLES ARE CONFIDENT THE PROPOSED SUBSIDIES WILL BE
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DISCUSSED DURING THE SECOND AND THIRD READING OF THE
1979 BUDGET AND THAT AN AGREEMENT WILL BE REACHED IN
TIME TO HAVE A NEW AIRLINE TICKET PRICING POLICY ENTER
INTO EFFECT ON JANUARY 1, 1979.

6. SENATOR FOR ECONOMICS LUEDER (FDP) HAS CRITICIZED
THE BERLIN CDU POSITION PAPER, ACCUSING THE CDU OF LEAVING THE
COMMON GROUND WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED BY THE BONN GROUP
WORKING PAPER AND GUIDELINES OF THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION
ON BERLIN. LUEDER TERMED THE CDU DOCUMENT A
"SUMMERTIME EFFORT TO ESTABLISH A POLITICAL PROFILE AT
THE EXPENSE OF JOINT PRINCIPLES FOR BERLIN POLICIES AS
ESTABLISHED BY THE FOUR POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE BUNDESTAG."
LUEDER ALSO SAID THAT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CONCERNED
AIRLINES ON WAYS TO ENHANCE THE ATTRACTIVENESS ON
BERLIN AIR TRAVEL, AND ON A REVISION OF SUBSIDIES WERE
TO BE RESUMED AFTER THE SUMMER RECESS ON SEPTEMBER 11.
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Message Attributes

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RECENTLY, THE BERLIN CDU PUBLISHED A POSI
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